

For immediate release

November 10, 2011

Mayor Coleman Affirms City's Commitment to Curbside Residential Recycling in 2012

Today Mayor Michael B. Coleman joined City Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley to announce details of the curbside residential recycling program that will begin in 2012. Implementation of the program will begin on the first of five separate routes in late spring, with recyclables being collected every other week in 64-gallon blue carts. Yard waste will be collected on the weeks that recycling is not collected. The recycling program amounts to \$1.44 per household each month and \$1.14 per household for yard waste collection without taking tipping fee savings into account. These costs will be included in the mayor's 2012 budget proposal he will present Tuesday to City Council and will not result in additional fees to residents.

"This program is affordable, efficient and long overdue," Mayor Coleman said. "Until we have curbside recycling, we cannot truly call ourselves a green city."

Each route will be phased in starting with those residents who currently receive yards waste collection on Monday. Those who receive yard waste service on Tuesday, Wednesday and so on will follow. It is expected to take approximately one year to fully implement the program throughout the 227,000 households eligible for the service. Hauling service will be provided by Rumpke and carts will be manufactured and deployed by Toter.

Including the tipping fee savings, the recycling program costs for 2012 will be at most, \$2.9 million and potentially as low as \$700,000. The yard waste program will cost approximately \$1.9million. A breakdown of the cost is as follows:

- Yard Waste: Currently, the City of Columbus pays \$3.7 million per year for yard waste collection service. The revised yard waste program will cost the City \$3.1 million in 2012. This equals \$1.14 per month per household for yard waste collection.
- Recycling: The total cost of the recycling program—including collection, carts, cart maintenance and education—for 2012 is \$3.9million or \$1.44 per household per month.
- Tipping Fee Savings: In 2012, Columbus will pay \$55.42 per ton to SWACO for landfill tipping fees. If Columbus has only 6.2 percent diversion it will avoid an annual \$1 million in fees. If Columbus reaches 20 percent diversion it city could avoid an annual \$3.2 million in fees per year from the recycling program. The current yard waste program diverts 21,776 tons of material from entering the landfill per year, avoiding \$1.2 million per year in tipping fees.

This program is the first step to a more efficient, cross-jurisdictional regional recycling plan that Mayor Coleman has been working on for years. The Columbus proposal is designed so that surrounding communities may join it at a lower cost than many of them are now paying for recycling services, and city officials have initiated dialogue with these communities about the opportunities this program represents.

The city will launch an intensive education campaign to ensure residents are fully aware of program details including container delivery, acceptable materials, collection dates and more. Recycling was identified as a city need during the Bicentennial Survey, a 2010 petition signed by 600 residents and recycling program research including focus groups and surveys coordinated with the help of The Ohio State University.